

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 52-98 are pending in the application. Claims 1-51 have been canceled from the application, without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter of the canceled claims, and as to the filing of one or more divisional or additional continuation applications drawn to the same or similar subject matter.

Newly presented claim 52 is directed to a fiber bale made by a process that includes the steps of compressing fibers; forming a substantially cuboidal package around the fibers, the package comprising a top wall, a bottom wall, and a plurality of side walls, wherein at least one wall of the package is provided with an evacuator; sealing the package; evacuating the package through the evacuator to achieve an internal pressure less than ambient atmospheric pressure; and thereafter releasing compression. Support for the subject matter of this newly presented claim may be found, for example, in original claims 40 and 42, and in Examples 1 and 2. Further support may be found, for example, in the application at page 12, line 24 to page 13, line 4, taken with page 14, lines 10-18, and page 17, lines 14-23. Additional support exists at page 20, line 25 to page 21, line 2.

Newly presented claim 53 provides that the fibers comprise cellulose acetate fibers, support for which can be found throughout the application, for example at page 8, lines 24-27. Newly presented claims 54-60 further describe the walls of the package, support for which can be found in the application, for example, at page 13, line 5 to page 14, line 5.

Newly presented claims 61-63 further describe the evacuator, support for which can be found, for example, at page 14, lines 10 to 24. Newly presented claims 64-66 further describe the internal pressure of the package, support for which can be found, for example, at page 14, line 25 to page 15, line 11.

Newly presented claims 67-68 describe the dimensions of the resulting bale, support for which can be found, for example, at page 17, lines 1-6. Newly presented

claims 69-72 describe the internal volume of the resulting bale, support for which can be found at page 17, lines 7-13.

Newly presented claims 74-76 describe the flatness of the resulting bale, support for which can be found, for example, at page 18, lines 4-15. Newly presented claims 77-79 describe the density of the resulting bales, support for which can be found, for example, at page 20, lines 3-9. Newly presented claim 80 provides that the process further comprises surrounding the sealed package with additional packaging material, support for which can be found, for example, at page 22, lines 25-26.

Newly presented claim 81 provides that the walls comprise a laminate construction wherein each wall comprises a polymeric film and a barrier element, support for which can be found, for example, at page 24, lines 25-27. Newly presented claim 82-83 describe the water vapor permeability of the walls, support for which can be found, for example at page 25, lines 4-7; and newly presented claims 84-85 describe the oxygen permeability, support for which may be found, for example, at page 25, lines 7-9.

Newly presented claims 86-87 provide that the walls comprise a laminate packaging material that includes a sealing layer, and that the sealing layer may comprise a heat sealable polymer, support for which can be found, for example, at page 29, line 30 to page 30, line 5. Newly presented claim 88 provides that the substantially cuboidal package is formed from a bottom piece and a top piece that are joined at their edges to form the top wall, the bottom wall, and the plurality of side walls. Support for newly presented claim 88 may be found, for example, at page 31, lines 5-24 and in Figure 5.

Newly presented claim 89 provides that the evacuator comprises a check valve that allows one way flow from the interior to the exterior of the package. Support for this newly presented claim may be found, for example, at page 32, lines 13-14.

Newly presented claim 90 describes in part a fiber bale comprising a sealed chamber containing a bulk material, wherein the density of the bulk material in the sealed chamber is from 0.2 to 0.9 g/cm³. Support for this description can be found, for example, at page 20, lines 8-9. Newly presented claim 91 provides that the fibers

comprise cellulose acetate fibers, support for which can be found throughout the application.

Newly presented claim 92 provides that the walls are comprised of a polymeric film; new claim 93 provides that the walls are comprised of one or more of: polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene vinyl alcohol polymer, nylon, mylar, polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene terephthalate glycol, polyimides, polyamides, biaxially oriented nylon, linear low density polyethylene, and ultra linear low density polyethylene; and newly presented claim 94 provides that the walls provide one or more of a gaseous barrier, a moisture barrier, or an odor barrier. Support for the subject matter of these claims has already been cited.

Newly presented claim 95 provides that the dimensions of the bale are from 80 cm to 120 cm in width, from 100 cm to 150 cm in length, and from 105 cm to 155 cm in height; and newly presented claim 96 provides that the sealed chamber has an internal volume from 0.9 to 2.3 m³. Support for the subject matter of these claims has already been cited.

Newly presented claim 97 provides that the height of the center of the top wall is less than 6.3% greater than the height of an edge of the top wall; and newly presented claim 98 provides that the height of the center of the top wall is less than 2.4% greater than the height of an edge of the top wall. Support for new claim 97 can be found on p. 18, lines 8-15, and p. 28, lines 2-4 of the application(6.3% is 8 cm in a bale having a height of 127 cm). Similarly, support for newly presented claim 98 can be found on p. 18, lines 8-15, and p. 28, lines 2-4 (2.4% is 3 cm in a bale having a height of 127 cm).

Applicants respectfully submit that the newly presented claims are fully supported in the application as filed, and respectfully request entry and favorable consideration.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to in the Office Action under 37 CFR 1.83(a), it being asserted that the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in

the claims. Because claim 32 has been canceled from the application, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection is now moot.

Claim rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 9, 17, 19, 27, 28, and 30 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as assertedly being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, because the rejected claims have been canceled from the application, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of the claims is now moot.

Claim rejections – 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lassiter, U.S. Pat. No. 2,814,382. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, because the rejected claims have been canceled from the application, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection as to these claims is now moot.

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 14-20, 23-29, and 31-39 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dunbar et al., U.S. Pat. No. 3,458,966. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, because the rejected claims have been canceled from the application, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection as to these claims is now moot.

Claims 11, 14-21, 23-25, 27, 29, and 32-39 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Davis, U.S. Pat. No. 5,097,956. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, because the rejected claims have been canceled from the application, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection as to these claims is now moot.

Claims 12, 13, 22, and 30 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunbar et al. '966, and further in view of Lassiter '382. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, because the rejected claims have been canceled from the application, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection as to these claims is now moot.

Newly presented claims

Newly presented claim 52 is directed to a fiber bale embodiment made by a process that includes the steps of compressing fibers; forming a substantially cuboidal package around the fibers, the package comprising a top wall, a bottom wall, and a plurality of side walls, wherein at least one wall of the package is provided with an evacuator; sealing the package; evacuating the package through the evacuator to achieve an internal pressure less than ambient atmospheric pressure; and thereafter releasing compression. Applicants respectfully submit that the embodiment as claimed in newly presented claim 52 is neither disclosed nor fairly suggested in the cited references, and entry and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Newly presented claim 90 is directed to a fiber bale embodiment comprising a sealed chamber comprising a bulk material, wherein the bulk material comprises fibers, wherein the density of the bulk material in the sealed chamber is from 0.2 to 0.9 g/cm³; wherein the sealed chamber comprises a top wall, a bottom wall and a plurality of side walls; wherein the package has a substantially cuboidal shape; wherein the top and bottom walls of the sealed chamber are substantially flat; wherein at least one wall comprises an evacuator; and wherein the initial pressure in the sealed chamber is less than ambient atmospheric pressure. Applicants respectfully submit that the embodiment as claimed in newly presented claim 90 is neither disclosed nor fairly suggested in the cited references, and entry and favorable consideration is therefore earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/672,825
Amendment dated August 31, 2006
Reply to Office action dated April 4, 2006

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In summary, Applicants believe the application to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the above amendment, remove all rejections, and pass the application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



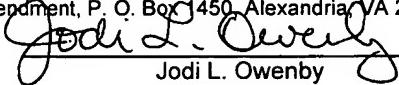
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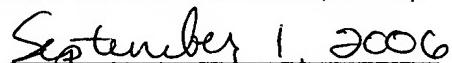
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

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Jodi L. Owenby


Date